

To: Keener, Bill[Keener.Bill@epa.gov]; Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]
Cc: Higuchi, Dean[Higuchi.Dean@epa.gov]
From: Maier, Brent
Sent: Tue 8/11/2015 2:43:36 PM
Subject: Gold King Mine - Region VIII Statement on Additional Water Quality Data

Please see attached below.

From: Bowles, Jack
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 7:27 AM
To: Russo, Rebecca; Smith, Paula
Cc: Hull, George; Snyder, Raquel; Rupp, Mark; Gray, David; Maier, Brent
Subject: FW: Additional Water Quality Data

Thank you Rebecca. I really like the statement. I have a couple of questions:

Is the plan to share this statement with state and local officials before the media?

What is the geography/range of the water quality data mentioned in the first paragraph? Is this intended for Colorado consumption only?

Thanks,

Jack Bowles

Director of State & Local Relations

U.S. EPA

202-564-3657

From: Russo, Rebecca

Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:50 AM
Subject: Additional Water Quality Data

Hi all,

Please find below the following information, which will also be shared with media tonight or early tomorrow morning.

EPA has compared the surface water quality data collected on August 5 and 6 to screening levels for human health developed by EPA. The screening levels for human incidental ingestion during recreation are based on an exposure duration totaling 60 days, 8 hours/day. The State of Colorado has developed screening levels for agricultural exposure. The screening levels for agricultural exposure are based on an exposure duration totaling 30 days.

Based on the data we have seen so far, EPA and ATSDR do not anticipate adverse health effects from exposure to the metals detected in the river water samples from skin contact or incidental (unintentional) ingestion. Similarly, the risk of adverse effects to livestock that may have been exposed to metals detected in river water samples from ingestion or skin contact is low. It is advisable to avoid areas with orange discoloration in the river water.

Although the pH levels between Cement Creek and Durango have returned to baseline levels washing with soap and water after contact with the river water is a sound public health practice to minimize exposure to the metals and bacteria that may be present in any untreated river water.

Rebecca A. Russo

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